

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

ACTION COPY

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Action

Control: 9597

Rec'd: AUGUST 13, 1961

EUR

FROM: BERLIN

Info

TO: Secretary of State

SS

NO: 182, AUGUST 13, 2 PM

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ACTION DEPARTMENT 182, NIACT
LONDON 98, MOSCOW PRIORITY 95, PARIS PRIORITY 104, POLAD
USAREUR PRIORITY 93.

PARIS FOR EMBASSY USRO, STOESSEL AND FINN

EAST GERMAN REGIME TOOK EXTENSIVE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS MORNING
AUGUST 13 WHEN IMPLEMENTING DECISION PREVENT TRAVEL EAST GERMANS
WEST BERLIN. MISSION OFFICER WHO WAS IN EAST BERLIN BETWEEN
4:00 AND 8:30 AM OBSERVED FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. BETWEEN 4:00 AND 5:00 AM, VOPOS AT SECTOR CROSSING POINTS WERE
HEAVILY REINFORCED; BARBED WIRE AND OTHER BARRIERS WERE LAID.
2. BETWEEN 5:00 AND 6:00 AM, SECURITY CONTROL ACTIVITY THROUGH-
OUT EAST BERLIN WAS RAPIDLY ACCELERATED. SECURITY UNITS
APPEARING ON STREETS AT THIS TIME INCLUDED CUSTOMS POLICE PERFORMING
NORMAL POLICE DUTY, VOPOS, BEREITSCHAFT POLIZEI, KAMPF-
GRUPPEN UNITS AND EAST GERMAN ARMY UNITS. KAMPFGRUPPEN UNITS
ENTERED ALMOST ALL BUILDINGS ON STREETS ADJACENT TO EAST/WEST
BERLIN SECTOR LINES AND INSPECTED STAIRWELLS, UPPER FLOORS,
AND ROOFS. VOPOS TOOK UP ASSIGNED BEATS ON STREETS, ASSISTED BY
CUSTOMS POLICE. SECURITY ALERT POLICE OPENED SCHOOLS, OTHER
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND FACTORIES TO HOUSE LARGE NUMBERS POLICE
ARRIVING IN MOTORIZED COLUMNS. MAJOR UNIT CONSISTING OF APPROXI-
MATELY 80 TRUCKLOADS POLICE, ACCOMPANIED BY ARMORED CARS,
MACHINE GUN CARRIERS AND OTHER VEHICLES, ARRIVED AT LARGE

2

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ACTION		ACTION		DIRECTIONS	
ASSIGNED TO	EUR	TAKEN	1411		
NAME OF OFFICER		DATE OF	8/12/61		
OFFICE SYMBOL		ACTION			

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-2- 182, AUGUST 13, 2 PM FROM BERLIN

INDUSTRIAL SITE NEAR RUMMELSBURG S-BAHN STATION.

APPROXIMATELY 5:30 AM MISSION OFFICER SAW SMALL EAST GERMAN ARMY LIGHT TANK UNIT AT SCHOENHAUSER ALLEE AND DIMITROFF ALLEE. THIS LIGHT TANK UNIT AND AT LEAST OR OTHER SUBSEQUENTLY SIGHTED ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE TAKEN UP STATIONS IN SAME FACTORY AREA WHERE 80 TRUCKLOADS POLICE DELIVERED.

3. BETWEEN 6:00 AND 7:00 AM, RED CROSS, CIVIL DEFENSE, AND OTHER UNIFORMED UNITS BEGAN TO ACCOMPANY VOPOS ON REGULAR BEATS.

4. BETWEEN 7:00 AND 8:00 AM EAST BERLIN POPULACE BEGAN TO APPEAR IN LARGE NUMBERS ON STREETS. MISSION OFFICER FIRST NOTICED SOVIET ACTIVITY AT THIS TIME, WITH MANY SOVIET MILITARY-LICENSED CARS MAKING OBSERVATION TOURS OF EAST BERLIN.

MOST NOTEWORTHY FEATURE FOREGOING IS THAT ALMOST ALL SECURITY CONTROL MEASURES WERE COMPLETED BEFORE MOST EAST BERLINERS WERE AWAKE FROM SUNDAY SLEEP. ALTHOUGH CROWDS BEGAN TO GATHER AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 AM ON STREETS LEADING TO CROSSING POINTS, MOST PEOPLE KEPT AT CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE FROM POLICE AND APPEARED TO BE RESIGNED TO PASSIVE OBSERVATION OF EVENTS TAKING PLACE.

LIGHTNER

MLJ

Note: Advance copies to EUR and SS 8/13/12:05 p.m. CWO M

Passed White House 8/13

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